



Imagine Housing
building eastside communities

Community Leaders Recognize the Housing Need



“The challenge we have is making sure we have a variety of housing opportunities available for all income levels. That’s not easy these days with housing prices the way they are. That’s why it’s so important for us to have partnerships with organizations like St. Andrew’s Housing Group that can figure out ways to be creative in coming up with viable solutions for affordable housing on the Eastside.”

Grant Degginger
Former Mayor, City of Bellevue



“If housing costs are extremely high, then people’s incomes are diverted from other things. From transportation, from healthcare, sometimes from clothing, from food, and so they’re putting all their money into housing. A tip in that very delicate balance can push them out of being housed and into homelessness.”

Ava Frisinger
Mayor, City of Issaquah



“I was talking with a principal in a school in Bellevue that has a school with a lunch program of which about 54% of her students are in a free and reduced lunch program. She has a 30% turnover in the school. The main reason for families coming in and leaving – and most of them foreign born – is that their rents increase.”

James Lauinger
Former Mayor, City of Kirkland



“I was almost 40 before I could afford my first home, so affordable rental housing was critical to me as a single mom. Its families like these – families like mine – that are going to be left behind if we don’t solve these issues. I may even get tears in my eyes when I mention this but I feel that I am where I am and my children are where they are because of the availability of affordable housing on the Eastside where I worked.”

Jean Garber
Former Mayor, City of Newcastle



“You see people with very long commutes from the places they can afford to the places they work. It affects just the fabric of families to have to make those kinds of commutes. A very high percentage of people in the lower income brackets are paying more than half of their income for housing.”

Bill Block
Project Director, Committee to End Homelessness